

*Government Information Systems on the Internet:
The Library of Congress*

**SIGNIDR/SIGWAIS IV
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Quick look at the Library of Congress:

Responsible for:

- 105 million items
- 16 million books and serials in all languages
- the nation's Copyright records
- research and information for Congress

The Library of Congress is:

- a "multi-media encyclopedia" (Daniel Boorstin)
- a new unit to measure information, as in "one LOC"
- a downsizing federal bureaucracy

The Library of Congress on the Internet: Quick Chronology

1990:

August 1990: Direct LC connection to Internet established via SURANET

1991:

March/April 1991: Internet/NREN Committee reports to management: potential uses of Internet in each service unit

1992:

ftp site set up by KD Ellis/Special Projects, for exhibits and finding aids etc.

March/April 1992: Internet Users Group formed by staff

Winter 1992: WAIS team and project formed

1993:

April 1993: telnet access to LOCIS

May 1993: IUG study groups formed on gopher, CWIS, training, and use policies

May-July 1993: WAIS server in use; WAIS client for OS/2 developed by WAIS Inc.

May 1993: Listservs set up: LCCN, USMARC, LC-Internet

June-July 1993: gopher (LC MARVEL) set up by team of eight

December 1993: Mosaic in test for use as access mechanism for multimedia exhibits

1994:

Major hardware upgrades to support Internet tools

March 1994: testing gopher +

March 1994: testing WWW

FUTURE:

LC reviewing access to USENET

Who's Who in LC Internet use and policy making

LC Internet Users Group (IUG) Coordinating Committee
LC MARVEL Design Team: Original and expanded group
Information Technology Services
LC Training Office
LC Management Team
Digital Library Coordinating Committee

Some documents about LC and the Internet

LC IUGCC Report, October 26, 1993, Internet Policy Guidelines
LC IUGCC Report, May 14, 1993, Recommendations...on Internet Education and Training
LC IUGCC Report, May 10, 1993, CWIS Study Group Report
IUG and Staff Training and Development Div., February 1994, "Accessing the Internet: An Overview", training materials for LC staff

Unofficial Notes and Observations:



"The trouble with gopher ..."

Feeding the "full employment program for librarians" in tight budget times



Gopher vs. Campus/Corporate/Agency Information System

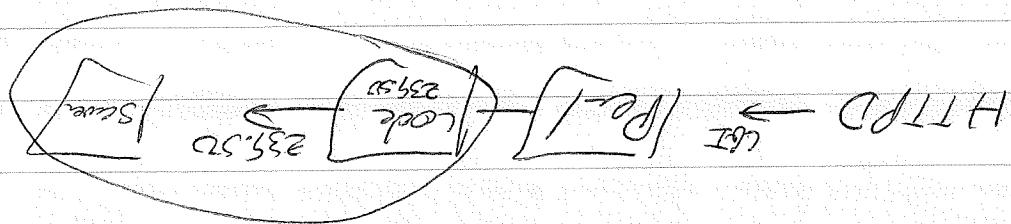
Managing access to internal information vs. managing access to external information:
the special dilemma of a research library gopher: maintenance, growth, and use

It was (serious) fun

Collaborative authorship
Cell discipline
"The red shoes"

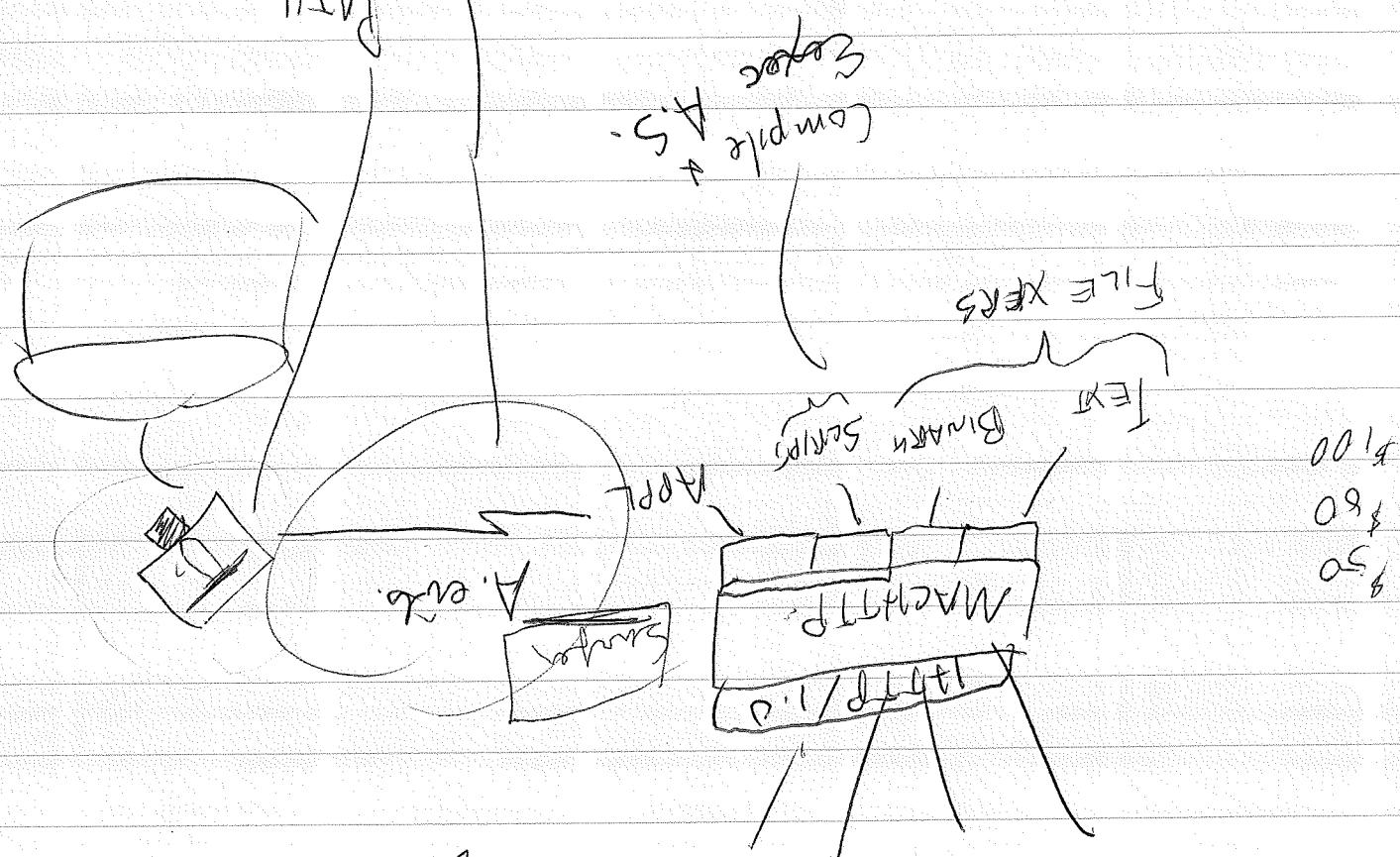
More and better tools please





forms
[.] search
[.] ARCS.
ATH

/ path ~ user
? could



→ (indexing) →
→ (apple eats) → → who's second]

Mac Lu + source
~~laptop~~ → Mac

waits lookup

waits page wrong
waits index headers
 should

Brenner: eval form 6ao

FTP login + password
mac index